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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT



### THE JOURNAL IN 1911

WE wish our readers far and wide a Happy New Year.

We must have, at least as often as once in twelve months, a heart-to-heart talk with our JOURNAL family in regard to the growth and development of the official organ of our national societies, and of its general policy, in order to keep the younger members in touch with the work for which the magazine was established.

1911 opens with the prospect of a peaceful year in which it would seem our energies may be concentrated on all the different lines of educational work.

Could we have the hearty co-operation of all the forces that are now at work for the JOURNAL's development, we might make 1911 commemorative of its growth by adding at least one-half to the number of pages each month. There are so many lines of educational and philanthropic work contributory to or affiliating with nursing interests that we seem to be unable to give adequate space to them all, and each month as we go to press we realize that much has been omitted of great importance to the nursing body which we reach.

The JOURNAL Purchase Fund during the year of 1910 has made splendid growth. The interest shown in the ownership, however, is in advance of the development of the subscription list, though that has been considerable. The two should go hand in hand. Before another year the amount needed for purchasing the JOURNAL will undoubtedly be completed and the responsibility of the financial backing of the JOURNAL as a business enterprise will rest with the Associated Alumnae, and not upon the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING Company. If the work under the new administration is to go forward, the subscription list must be substan-

tially increased, otherwise the taking over of the JOURNAL may be hazardous.

The JOURNAL Company had from the proceeds of the original sale of stock a reserve fund, from which it has been able to meet such expenses in excess of the JOURNAL's earnings as were necessary for its broader development, and has thus been able to make it of much greater educational value than would have been possible had it been entirely dependent upon the JOURNAL's earnings.

Of course, as we have said many times, the pioneer period is passed, the financial risk of such an experiment is over, and under wise management there should be no question of the JOURNAL's financial future. The one simple and practical way of making this future an assured success is for each Alumnae Association to see that the members individually subscribe for it. Such a magazine as ours will be just what the profession chooses to make it.

We want, also, to say again in this connection, that the success of our advertising pages depends upon the numerical strength of our subscription list. Those pages are equally important to the JOURNAL's financial success, but we are constantly handicapped in the management of our advertising pages by our ethical exclusiveness, eliminating therefrom everything which, so far as we are able to learn, seems to be unprofessional or unethical from a medical and nursing stand-point.

We would suggest to our members who are in hospital positions that they investigate such firms as advertise with us before making purchases elsewhere along their lines, and to patronize as far as possible those houses that are helping the JOURNAL, while they are benefitting themselves.

#### SUBJECTS TO BE CONSIDERED

In order to make an interesting JOURNAL, we must have a variety of subjects that the nurses engaged in the different branches of nursing may find something for their special needs.

The pressure of all lines of nursing work to be classed under social service indicates that during the year much space will be given to that subject. We are promised a series of papers on hospital and training-school administration, and our plan is to commence with a series of articles written by the superintendents of the smaller group of schools where the one woman is at the head of both the hospital and nursing departments, and lead on to a discussion of the problems of the hospitals and training schools of the great cities. We are dependent, of course, in the carrying out of such plans upon the fulfilment of the promises of a

group of very busy women, but we have every reason to believe that these promises will be kept.

A special treat in store is a group of papers on Exophthalmic Goitre, the surgical aspect being treated by Dr. Charles Mayo, of Rochester, Minnesota; the medical, by one of his clinicians; and the nursing side, we hope, by Miss Anna Jamme, of the same place. We are also promised a series of papers, delivered as lectures at the New York Neurological Institute, on the general subject of Psychic Management of Nervous Cases.

A paper on "Infant Paralysis," by Dr. Edward A. Rich, of Tacoma, Wash., is being specially prepared for our pages.

We have on hand, with illustrations, an article on "Medico-Mechanical Treatment and Description of the Zenda Methods and Appliances, as used at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston," by Helen A. Parks; also, an excellent paper on the "Nursing Care of Pneumonia," by Lena Steuer, of the Lakeside Hospital in Cleveland; one on the "Care of the Insane," by E. Maude Jones, of the Boston City Hospital; "Typhoid Precautions," by Harriet L. P. Friend, of the Massachusetts General Hospital; "Resident Nurse in a Southern College," by Linna H. Denny, of Birmingham, Ala.; "The Nurse as the Mother's Aid in Teaching the Child the Problems of Sex," by Anna Ross Lapham, M.D., of Chicago; "Meat in Hospital Dietary and the Advantages of Fruitarian and Vegetable Diet," by Mary C. Wheeler; "Change is Rest," by Florence E. Besley, of the Philippine General Hospital, and a number of excellent papers by Dr. Anne E. Perkins on "The Correlation of Pelvic Diseases and Insanity," "The Common Cold," "The Feeding of Children," "Preparation of Insane Patients for Operation," "Some Lessons from Illness," "Hygiene," "Insomnia," "Nature Study for Nurses," and others.

#### THE NIGHTINGALE NUMBER

It has been suggested that we give from month to month the contents for the next issue, but this, from our stand-point, is unsatisfactory, for the reason that we are dependent upon a group of overworked people for our most valuable material who, with the best of intentions, cannot always be on time for a given number. For this reason, our plans for publishing the addresses given in New York, in the spring, at the Fiftieth Anniversary of the establishment of the first training school by Florence Nightingale, have failed to materialize (through no fault of ours) in time for the January number, and we are obliged to postpone those papers. We hope now to publish the Nightingale material in February and it is

our intention that this material shall be entirely original. One paper will be a description by Miss Scovil of three visits to Miss Nightingale, in connection with which will be given two autograph letters written to her by Miss Nightingale, which have never before been published.

In the second volume of the *History of Nursing*, written by two of our well-known women, Miss Nutting and Miss Dock, we have a most complete history of Miss Nightingale's work, with a bibliography of her writings, which should be in every school library and studied by every nurse at this time. We do not quote from these pages, because they should be in the hands of every nurse.

To those who have preserved their file of JOURNALS we would suggest that they turn back to the January, 1903, number, and read the "Recollections of a Pioneer Nurse," by Miss Linda Richards, who gives a picture of Miss Nightingale and the English Training Schools twenty years earlier.

The leading editorial in the Nightingale number, on the application of Miss Nightingale's writings to the education of the modern nurse, will be by Miss Dock.

Reprints of the Nightingale material will be made, in attractive form, suitable for library uses. The price will be twenty-five cents, which may be sent in stamps to the editorial office, Rochester; we shall not attempt to fill orders received after the 24th of January.

We are giving in this issue a little sketch of the Plevna Battle-field, making a setting for the material which will come later, from the point of view of a young journalist who travels about the world taking pictures and writing sketches of interesting places. The dreariness and desolation of the surroundings in which Miss Nightingale did her work make the photographs with which he has illustrated his little paper illuminating and interesting.

#### A REQUEST REITERATED

We wish to remind our contributors that all material to be published in the JOURNAL, whether items or papers, should be type-written and addressed to the editor-in-chief, at the editorial office, 247 Brunswick Street, Rochester, and that all business transactions, such as subscriptions, renewals, or requests for advertising rates, should be sent to the publishing office, 227 South Sixth Street, Philadelphia. All checks or money orders should be made payable to the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, not to the publishers nor to the editor.

We also want to remind our readers again that we do not publish memorial resolutions. When such material is sent in, a personal explana-

tion cannot be made to the senders, but the material is reconstructed into a simple death notice, which really tells more than the resolutions and is much more likely to be read. The only exceptions that have been made since this rule was adopted, several years ago, have been in the cases of the deaths of Miss Nightingale and Mrs. Robb, exceptions so notable as to need no explanation.

#### A RED CROSS DEPARTMENT

While we have constantly given space to reports and papers dealing with Red Cross work, we have not devoted a special department to its interests until this January issue when, as a result of the action taken at the recent Red Cross meeting in Washington, a special department is opened with Miss Delano in charge.

#### DEATH OF LUCY B. FISHER

THE December issue of the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast* contained an item announcing the serious illness of Miss Fisher, one of the most earnest and able of the California nurses. Within a few days we received a copy of the formal resolutions passed by the councillors of the California State Association deploring her death, and know that the end has come to a useful life. Miss Fisher was one of the pioneer workers in all nursing affairs of the coast. She was always connected more or less closely with the *Pacific Coast Journal* and wrote for its pages frequently, she was one of Miss Cooke's most valued supporters in the early days of its existence and was one of the associate editors at the time of her death. Miss Fisher's own work was along the lines of district and philanthropic work; tuberculosis prevention, the Red Cross, venereal prophylaxis, and all kindred subjects claimed her interest and support. She will be greatly missed by her friends and associates there, and that her work was not merely local in character is shown by the fact that at our last national convention she was elected second vice-president of the Associated Alumnae.

#### THE CONTROVERSY REGARDING CIVIL HOSPITAL AFFAIRS IN MANILA

It will be remembered that after the International Congress in London we printed in the JOURNAL a paper sent to Miss Dock, which had been contributed to the Congress by Miss McCalmont, superintendent of the Civil Hospital, Manila. Immediately after the appearance of this paper we began to receive letters of protest for having practically given

our endorsement to her work by its publication. Because of what seemed a tone of personal animosity on the part of the writers of these letters we refused to publish them in our pages, but the dissatisfaction with the management of the Civil Hospital nursing affairs seemed too wide-spread to be ignored and, as we were unable at this distance to judge fairly of the justice of the complaints, we placed in Miss Delano's hands such evidence as we possessed on both sides of the case, requesting her to endeavor during her stay in the Philippines to get at the rights of the situation.

Miss Delano, of course, made this inquiry in her personal capacity and as president of the Associated Alumnae of which the JOURNAL is the official organ. The letter which follows is the result of her inquiry and is her and our final word on the subject.

The JOURNAL has from the beginning refused to enter into controversies which were purely local and personal in character, as it is impossible to judge fairly across the distance of several states or half way around the world as to the justice or injustice of charges or counter-charges.

Before leaving for the Philippines early last summer, I was asked by the editor of the JOURNAL, various nursing organizations, and individuals who had, in spite of themselves, been drawn into the most unfortunate discussion concerning the Civil Hospital, Manila, to ascertain if possible the true facts in the case, and to present them on my return.

An investigation, begun, I believe, at Miss McCalmont's own request, was in progress when I arrived in Manila. A number of nurses and at least one newspaper claimed to have proof of serious injustices, for which Miss McCalmont was responsible, and hinted at even graver charges. So much personal feeling and bitterness entered into the accusations that it seemed impossible to form an opinion. Before the investigation was well under way the Governor General returned and, declaring the investigation irregular, published a statement exonerating Miss McCalmont.

I quote the following from the Manila Times for August 13, 1910:

"After examination of all matters pertaining to the hospital investigation, the Governor-General has found that the appointment of a board to conduct the investigation was irregular; that the matter was one which was purely administrative, there being no matters which could not properly be looked into by the officials of the Government; and that conditions calling for an investigation have wholly ceased to exist. There is no evidence that anybody now in the service has been guilty of any illegal or improper acts.

"There is no doubt whatever but that under the previous management of the hospital the care of government property and supplies was lax and there was greater consumption than the conditions justified, and that a change in the method of accounting for property was necessary.

"Miss McCalmont was asked to do this work at the instance of the

director of health and of the secretary of the interior, and against her own expressed wishes and request, since a reform of this sort was necessarily unpopular and sure to arouse hostility and bitter feeling.

"Having demurred and having been requested to continue this work, she has done so at great personal sacrifice and in spite of poor health and many very unpleasant criticisms. To this work Miss McCalmont has brought a high order of intelligence and training and marked ability, together with a single-minded desire to work for the good of the service; and the Governor-General has directed the secretary of the interior to extend to Miss McCalmont the thanks of the government for the excellent work she has done."

This leaves small opportunity for discussion, and certainly nothing can be gained by reviewing charges and counter-charges which, to say the least, are a discredit to our profession. It would seem that wrong has not been altogether on one side. That there has been ground for complaint among the nurses concerning their treatment by Miss McCalmont would seem quite as true as that she undertook the most unpleasant, though necessary task, of reorganizing the nursing service of the hospital.

It may be an injustice to assume that Miss McCalmont was responsible for changes in salaries made by the Civil Service Board, and perhaps it was her misfortune only that the salaries of newly-appointed nurses were decreased about the same time that the salary of the superintendent was increased. Nor would one wish to assume that it was at Miss McCalmont's suggestion that the course of training for Filipino nurses was reduced from four years to two and a half years. These and questions involving the economic policies of the hospital are subjects concerning which an outsider would hesitate to express an opinion, but one cannot help questioning the ethical standards of a woman who publishes portions of examinations in an effort to discredit the ability of a nurse who had received a civil service appointment. This is, I feel sure, contrary to the rules of the Civil Service Commission, and unless Miss McCalmont was a member of the Board of Examiners, one wonders how she gained access to confidential papers, and if a member of the Board of Examiners, she certainly had no right to make such improper use of knowledge gained.

There seems to have been misunderstanding and dissatisfaction among some of the nurses in regard to accrued leave and reimbursement of travelling expenses, but the rules governing the Civil Service in the Philippine Islands are most explicit, and the legal right of employees definitely stated.

It must be assumed that if any nurse has just cause for complaint, and takes the proper action, the matter could easily be adjusted.

While in Manila I had the pleasure of visiting the new General Hospital, and found it a most attractive building, well planned and well equipped. The service there should prove most attractive to our very best nurses, who would find splendid opportunities for work in connection with the training of Filipino nurses.

In closing may I say that one is glad to give Miss McCalmont credit for sound ideas concerning hospital administration, even while regretting that the carrying out of these measures was at the cost of so much discomfort and discontent among the women whose well being was in her hands.

JANE A. DELANO,  
President Nurses' Associated Alumnae.



## A QUESTION OF DUTY

IN our November number we made mention of the co-operation between the State Medical Society of Indiana and the State Nurses' Association along the lines of education and prevention in the campaign against preventable blindness, and in the work of securing school inspection. We have learned with great satisfaction that the Pennsylvania State Medical Association has called upon the State Nurses' Association for co-operation in educational measures in regard to cancer, as shown by Miss Giberson's article in this paper. In a report of the meeting for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, which is crowded out for want of space, mention is made in several places of the importance of the nurse's place in preventive work. This is all encouraging and is only the beginning of what we may hope to see effected.

There is a question, however, still unanswered, which we know comes frequently to the minds of thinking women; and that is, what is the nurse to do when, in the care of a private patient, the physician, either through lack of knowledge or carelessness, fails to use the precautions which she has been educated to believe are so absolutely essential for the welfare of the patient? This is, of course, an exceedingly delicate matter to touch upon. Even the most advanced reformers of the medical profession will not admit that the nurse has any responsibility if the patient is under the care of a physician, whether reputable or not, but that she must sit back and see the child become hopelessly blind, or the health of a woman ruined for all time and, because of the standard of ethics established by the medical profession, remain silent. If she were not to do so, we are told by good medical authority, she would not be able to earn her living. The idea is, we are told, that the education of the public in regard to venereal prophylaxis must be collective rather than individual; nurses are to become valuable allies in this propaganda, and at the same time they must be absolutely silent unless they are directed by the physician attending the case.

This puts the nursing profession in a most trying position, and it would seem almost better that the great rank and file should remain uninstructed than to teach them the prophylaxis of blindness, of tuberculosis, of all the various forms of venereal disease, and then seal their lips by a code of ethics which protects the doctor rather than the patient in whose employment they are.

Even without special education, the publicity which is being given in meetings, such as that on Infant Mortality, or of the Society for

Moral Prophylaxis, and in articles in popular magazines, will serve to enlighten intelligent women.

One authority suggests that where a nurse sees neglect she should speak of it to the physician (who, we know, would not thank her), and that the probabilities are that the restrictions of the medical secret will be relaxed in the presence of a venereal disease in the family, but that it will require time to change the tradition. A physician cannot tell his patient that she has been infected by her husband, nor can he tell the mother of a blind child that it was blinded by an infection communicated by the father.

Such opinions make it seem that the present duty of the nurse in this campaign is not to actively serve but in silence "stand and wait."

#### ANSWERS TO EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

As we stated several months ago, a letter has been sent to the secretaries of all the boards of examiners for state registration, asking that the questions and what were considered to be the best answers should be sent to the *JOURNAL* for publication, as the request for such answers has been almost continuous since state registration went into force. Only a few of the boards have been heard from as yet, two of the states having had registration the longest have refused to comply with the request. The Indiana Board has submitted a set of questions on obstetrics, with the answers, as found on another page. The examiner does not state that she considers this a perfect set of answers, but the best of those returned.

Those who expect to see in the answers to examination questions new and brilliant suggestions from the teaching or academic stand-point will doubtless be disappointed, but those who have made the request will, we think, be pleased. These are nurses who graduated years ago, who feel themselves out of touch with modern methods, and to these the information will be a boon, for it is practical, yet up to date in regard to aseptic methods and modes of prevention of complications.

We believe that the occasional publication of just such material as this will form an excellent course of home instruction for the nurse who begins to feel herself out of date but who cannot manage for a time to take further hospital training.

#### CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION FOR NURSING POSITIONS

ON January 18, 1911, a civil service examination will be held in fifty-one states, and in several cities in each state, for the position of trained nurse in the Isthmian Canal, Philippine, and Indian services. The usual

entrance salaries paid in the Indian service are \$600 to \$750 per annum, and quarters; the entrance salary for the Philippine service is \$50 a month for the first six months, when the salary is increased to \$60 a month, an adequate laundry allowance is made in addition to board and quarters. Gradual promotion to \$85 may be made. In the Isthmian Canal service the entrance salary for female nurses is \$60 a month, with board, quarters, and laundry, with opportunity for promotion to \$75. For male nurses in the Isthmian Canal service, the entrance salary is \$90 a month, with quarters, but without subsistence or laundry, with opportunity of promotion to \$105. The examination will consist of the following subjects: anatomy and physiology, hygiene of the sick-room, general nursing, surgical nursing, obstetrical nursing (for women only), experience in nursing. Applicants should be between twenty and forty years of age and must have graduated from schools giving at least two years' residence in a hospital. All daily papers give notice of these examinations in the localities where they are to be held, but those wishing further information should write for it, and for the application forms, *to the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., not to this office.*